

TOWN Reminder

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Serving the town of South Hadley

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FREE
December 4, 2020
Vol. 52, No. 30

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COVID death count rises

South Hadley cases reach record high

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – South Hadley's COVID-19 death count has risen twice more. Between Nov. 24 and Dec. 1, two additional residents succumbed to the novel coronavirus, marking the town's 27th and 28th COVID-related fatalities.

"There were two deaths last week. We had a record week for confirmed cases with 27 new ones, which is disturbing," said Mike Sullivan, Town Administrator. "That's two more empty seats at the table; people in South Hadley that somebody will miss. We don't want that to be more than it has to be."

As of Dec. 1, South Hadley had reported an accumulative 327 confirmed, 320 contact, 14 suspected and 14 probable cases of COVID-19 this year. In each of the past two weeks, the confirmed case count rose by 27.

South Hadley remains vigilant in its effort to curb the spread. Large electronic signs have been placed across town, located at the Town Commons,



Photo by Dalton Zbierski

Multiple signs such as this one in front of the police station on Bridge St. have been placed throughout town, encouraging residents to follow safe practices.

on the rotary exit near Lathrop St., along Rt. 33, at the police station and on Newton St. near the high school.

"We also are going to be launching a new program, putting up additional signs that will encourage people to social distance, stay away from groups of

more than 10, wash your hands and wear a mask. Those will be on individual signs that we'll put up on public properties," said Sullivan.

Residents wishing to display a sign in front of their residences

Please see **COVID**, page 7

No just cause found for Fire Chief suspension

By Kimberly Palmucci
Correspondent

GRANBY – A single neutral arbitrator has found that the town of Granby did not have just cause to suspend Fire Chief John Mitchell for 30 days in May.

The town was ordered to immediately "rescind the suspension, remove all references to the suspension from the Mitchell's file and make him whole for all wages and benefits lost as a result of the suspension, less any interim income he would not have received but for the suspension," according to the decision written by Arbitrator Mary Ellen Shea.

The one-month unpaid suspension came after complaints were filed regarding Mitchell's driving while on the Mass Pike from Granby to Walpole on April 30 to inspect the new fire department apparatus. Other Granby firefighters were in the car with him, and his driving was described as "potentially reckless and unsafe."

It was reported that Mitchell drove in the high-speed lane, over the speed limit, tailgated the cars ahead, and flashed lights to "make them move out of the way." With this being the second speeding complaint against Mitchell in less than 30 days, according to the decision, Granby Town Administrator Christopher Martin emailed Mitchell in May.

"It has been reported to me that you have been speeding in the Fire Chief's vehicle," the

Please see **CHIEF**, page 5

HEPA recommended for GPS

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

GRANBY – A engineering firm hired by Granby Public Schools recommended the district install High Efficiency Particulate Air filters to 23 exhaust fans located in the Granby Junior/Senior High School on East State St.

Andrew and Joseph Davey of Davey Engineering and Construction Corp., a Canton-based

operation, addressed the Granby School Committee during its Dec. 1 meeting, following a November assessment of the school building.

To best use the building's fleet of exhaust fans that were recently repaired or replaced at the high school, Davey Engineering recommended that the district lean towards air cleaning and scrubbing. The recommendation was made with consideration of the school's mechanical systems.

Andrew Davey passionately suggested that the district purchase the HEPA air filters, a cost-friendly, readily available technology "which removes 98% of particles down to .3 microns."

Joseph Davey cited the proven value of HEPA filters, explaining that they are commonly applied in working environments that prioritize clean air.

Please see **HEPA**, page 4

A heartwarming distribution

Team effort distributes over 500 meals to local seniors

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – On Nov. 24, the Orchards Golf Club on Silverwood Terrace hosted a heartwarming community-led initiative that offered 525 Thanksgiving meals to local seniors.

The collaborative effort operated as a drive-through meal

distribution event. A total of 450 meals were served at the Orchards while volunteers delivered 75 meals to homebound seniors.

"It's been wonderful to have people drive up, smiling. They're waving and saying, 'Happy Thanksgiving!' It just makes it all worthwhile," said Kim Proulx, Friends of the South Hadley Seniors. "It's really filled a need that's been even more important because of COVID. It's wonderful that we can give back. It couldn't be better timing."

When Proulx and Dina Aldrich, President of the Orchards'

Please see **ORCHARDS**, page 8



Photo courtesy of Kim Proulx

Volunteers Ola Herbert and Kathy Gallivan getting ready to deliver meals to homebound seniors last Tuesday.

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E Ink donates \$15,000 to schools



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Rare condition changes life of resident



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South Hadley accepts \$2.71 million MassWorks grant

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – The Newton St./Lyman St. Small Growth District project is gaining traction. On Nov. 24, the South Hadley Selectboard and Planning Board approved a \$2.71 million MassWorks smart Growth Grant to help fund the initiative.

Focused primarily on revitalizing the Newton St. and Lyman St. Commercial Center, the project aims to facilitate economic development and redevelopment in the district. The \$2.71 million grant is a major step forward.

“It’s going to improve the sidewalks, add bike lanes and rebuild the signal at Lyman and Newton,” said Town Administrator Michael Sullivan. “Between private and public investment, you’re seeing over \$50 million worth of investment at the Lyman and Newton St. area. In this time and under these conditions, it really is absolutely incredible that you’re seeing that kind of investment.”

The MassWorks Infrastructure Program is a competitive grant program that provides capital funds to municipalities to be used on public infrastructure projects that support and “accelerate housing production, spur private development, and create jobs throughout the Commonwealth,” according to Mass. gov.

Sullivan credited many town officials for helping to land the grant but directed his highest praise towards Planning and Conservation Director Richard Harris and Asst. Planning and Conservation Director Anne



Photo by Dalton Zbierski

The Woodland Shopping Plaza on Newton St. will soon be home to an apartment complex that will hold at least 60 affordable units.

Capra.

“It’s a great team effort,” said Sullivan. “Certainly, Richard and Anne are right at the top of the list. They’ve done an incredible job successfully applying for grants. We also just got the Municipal Vulnerability Grant for \$11,000. We keep on getting these grants due to their hard work.”

MassWorks grant money can only be spent on capital projects, including the improvement of roadways, bicycle and pedestrian access and water and sewer line upgrades, all of which will occur on Lyman, Dayton and Newton St..

Sullivan noted that historic trees along the project’s route will not be tampered with.

Independent of the MassWorks grant, an exciting aspect

of the district’s development involves the Woodland Shopping Plaza property on Newton Street, where a complex boasting at least 60 units of affordable housing will soon be built.

Sullivan is highly encouraged by the progress that is occurring in the district. In a year where COVID-19 has overshadowed many positive developments, Sullivan believes that the work that is ongoing in the proximity of Lyman and Newton streets is worthy of a smile.

“There’s a new senior center, new affordable hous-

ing, and the interesting thing about it is that a lot of it will be coming at the same time,” he said. “The senior center will be complete in May, the vaccine is going to come into play in South Hadley around that time, the People’s Savings Bank project will come online and hopefully Rocky’s will start their new garden center project over there. There are all these assets that are being improved all at the same time. Believe me, we couldn’t time this if we tried.”

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

Webinar available on diversity and inclusion in South Hadley

SOUTH HADLEY – The public is invited to a Dec. 8 webinar focused on diversity and inclusion in South Hadley.

The webinar, set for 6 p.m., aims to give the public a better understanding of their own biases and teach how acceptance is critical for the dynamics of a community.

Held under the Symposium of Understanding initiative as its own series, the webinar will feature Dr. Lauren Appio of Appio Psychological Consulting, PLLC. She presents regularly on cultural competence and professional development and has co-authored articles in the Journal

of Clinical Psychology, Law and Human Behavior and Journal of Counseling and Development.

It will also share how the South Hadley municipality is committed to furthering staff understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion through various trainings.

Register in advance for this webinar here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/1216069343002/WN_pPv5QD4sQ1iaCzwtnSRLEg

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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SOUTH HADLEY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

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December 21, 2012

Sweet siblings Chole and Kaelen Guillemetter visit with 'Ol Saint Nick at Santa's Land in Buttery Brook Park. Due to the circumstances of 2020, the event will be postponed this holiday season.

Subdivision plan fails ‘livability’ test

By **Walter Hamilton**
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The North Pole Estates subdivision plan would not create livable or attractive housing because it would share space with an active sand and gravel operation, Planning Board members determined during a continued public hearing on Monday.

All four voting members agreed with the opinion first stated by Chair Brad Hutchison regarding design standards enumerated by zoning bylaws that guide the board’s decisions on subdivision proposals.

The board based its opinion on the bylaw which states in part: “Due consideration shall also be given by the subdivider to the attractiveness and design of the street layout in order to obtain the maximum livability and amenity of the subdivision. As far as practicable, streets should follow natural contours.”

“It’s not hard at all to imagine a residential project that would very easily meet that standard. Not the location adjacent to the grandfathered portion,” Hutchinson stated, referring to the active sand and gravel mining operation where the plan calls for creation of two housing lots.

The proposed subdivision would be located on Dry Brook Hill near the intersection of Hadley St. (Route 47) and Pearl St. and atop the state-designated area that collects and filters drinking water for the nearby District 2 public water well.

Hutchison also raised such concerns during another hearing continuation on Nov. 2, after the board was told by Rob Levesque, a consultant for the applicant, Chicopee Concrete Services, that Frosty Lane, the proposed road into the subdivision, would require removal of some half-million cubic yards of earth in order to align it with roads associated with a “hypothetical” future build-out of 67 more houses.

Levesque has insisted, in response to a peer reviewer’s questions, that the board should consider only the eight-lot subdivision under review (only two lots require subdivision approval) as a completely stand-alone project, but at the same time also insisted that the eight-lot subdivision

should be considered the first “phase” of the “conceptual” larger and “likely” build-out.

Hutchison, reacting to Levesque’s written statements said, “What they may or may not do in the future is not part of this review... But even if we were to look beyond this, if you curve (Frosty Lane) to the left (rather than the planned curve to the right) ... you’re not going into that existing embankment. I don’t see any reason that would preclude you from extending Frosty Lane in the future.”

Hutchison added: “I also have some questions, given the choices of sites available for residential development here. Locating the two newly created lots...and locating them down at the (gravel) pit level ... and then the front and side yards of those houses are basically looking out at a 55-foot high embankment.”

“These folks (buying the planned houses) even if their back yards are green, beyond, it would look like the surface of the Moon.”

“The things that really struck me on this application really from the beginning...the contours are literally obliterating that field up there...” Hutchison said.

In October, the Board of Health unanimously voted to disapprove the subdivision project because the applicant could not demonstrate how the project would not endanger the public water supply. The Planning Board is prohibited from approving any subdivision that has not been approved by the Board of Health.

Robert Pleasure, of Jewett Lane, testified that the plan as it now stands, fails to meet the principal of compatibility repeated several times throughout zoning bylaws, and used the example of an industrial sand and gravel operation as one that is incompatible with the surrounding residential area.

Pleasure also used the CCS-supplied \$4.50 per cubic yard value of earth material to show that the company would gain a net \$1.8 million for its planned removal of 470,000 cubic yards of earth. Using federal housing statistics, the two \$450,000 houses planned for the site would net the company \$81,900. In other words, sale of earth material would bring the company 22 times the value of any

money realized through the construction and sale of the two homes, he said.

“It appears that the proposed excavation is not incidental (to the home construction),” Pleasure said. “The subdivision appears to be incidental to the excavation.”

On Monday, the board also stated concerns about its responsibilities for satisfying the standard that mandates compliance with all zoning bylaws, particularly those that limit earth removal that exceeds maximum allowable amounts and is not considered “essential” or “incidental” to development of homes and infrastructure.

Town counsel Brian Winner advised the board that it is not empowered to reject the subdivision application because of potential zoning bylaw violations, such as earth removal, but should register their concerns in their findings and convey them to the Zoning Enforcement Officer, in this case Building Commissioner David Gardner, who can take appropriate action.

Board members also said the plan would not provide “due regard for all natural features” which would “add to the attractiveness and value of the subdivision and the town.”

Members said the destruction of Dry Brook Hill would directly contradict that standard.

Member Nate Therrien is not allowed to participate in discussions and vote because he joined the board last spring after the hearing and their continuations had begun.

The board found that the subdivision plan conforms to some two-dozen other, mostly technical, standards, many of which have been met by the applicant.

The virtual public hearing will continue on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. The board is expected to close the hearing and begin deliberating its decision at that time.

On Monday, Dec. 1, the state ordered the end of its emergency authorization to continue such deliberations without strict deadlines because of the ongoing pandemic. That decision means the board faces a mid-January deadline for rendering its decision.

Town awarded funding for climate resiliency project

Staff report

SOUTH HADLEY - South Hadley has been awarded a \$105,000 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant by the Baker-Polito Administration.

The popular grant and designation program provides communities with funding and technical support to identify climate hazards, develop strategies to improve resilience and implement priority actions to adapt to climate change.

The grant recognizes a project, Climate Resilient South Hadley, which highlights South Hadley’s climate resilience strengths and areas which need improvement.

“Projects like those receiving awards today are not only critical for the resilience of our communities, but also create local jobs, contribute to the economy, and avoid future costs,” said Governor Charlie Baker.

Securing the grant funding was due to the massive effort by Conservation Administrator Anne Capra and Planning and Conservation Department Director Richard Harris, as well as DPW, Emergency Management and Recreation department staff members working as part of a core team.

Participation by residents at a 2019 South Hadley Community Resilience Building Workshop and subsequent meetings was dually instrumental in the planning portion of the project.

See South Hadley’s Community Resilience building report here: <https://www.southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/6520/South-Hadley-Community-Resilience-Building-Report---May-2020>

See the MVP Presentation #1 here: <https://www.southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/6088/MVP-Presentation-1---November-6-2019>

MVP Presentation #2 here: <https://www.southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/6087/MVP-Presentation-2---January-15-2020>

MVP Presentation #3 here: <https://www.southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/6524/MVP-Presentation-3---May-5-2020>

Community Resilience Building Workshop summary of findings here: <https://www.southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/6007/Community-Resilience-Building-Workshop---Summary-of-Findings-December-2019>

A total of 89% of Massachusetts cities and towns, or 312 municipalities, are now enrolled in the MVP program, which pairs local leadership and knowledge with a significant investment of resources and funding from the Commonwealth to address ongoing climate change impacts like sea level rise, inland flooding, storms, and extreme temperatures. The program was created was created in 2017 as part of Governor Baker’s Executive Order 569.

Projects are focused on proactive strategies to address climate change impacts and may include retrofitting and adapting infrastructure, actions to invest in and protect environmental justice communities and improve public health, detailed vulnerability assessments or design and engineering studies, stormwater upgrades, dam retrofits and removals, culvert upgrades, drought mitigation, energy resilience, mosquito control initiatives, and that focus on implementing nature-based solutions such as wetland restoration and floodplain protection.

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Town Reminder

Young women in public affairs applications being accepted

REGION – The Zonta Club of Quabog Valley is now accepting applications for the 2021 Young Women in Public Affairs Award, recognizing young women for their demonstrated leadership skills and commitment to public service.

Completed applications are due by March 12, 2021.

Monson resident and Scholarship Chair, Maria Maloney said, “We are looking for women in the Quabog Val-

ley and surrounding towns who are high school juniors or seniors, and have an active commitment to volunteerism, experience in local or student government, demonstrated leadership skills, and dedication to advancing the status of women throughout the world. The club offers an award of \$1,000 cash to the most outstanding applicant.”

Winners of the local award are eligible to be considered for a District-wide

and International award. More information is available at the international site: http://www.zonta.org/web/Programs/Education_Home

Locally, the YWPA application is available by contacting your School Counseling Office, emailing Maria Maloney at MariaMaloneylicsw@gmail.com or by download from www.zontaqv.org/resources.

HEPA from page 1

“The entire business of using HEPA filtration has been pretty much reserved for operating rooms, pharmaceutical manufacturing and semiconductor manufacturing,” said Joseph Davey. “In this application, rather than preventing any micros from passing through a duct or passing through a ventilation system, we’re using the HEPA filter as a restrainer to catch airborne aerosols that might have virus.”

Once HEPA filters are installed, exhaust fans will be turned on by the janitorial staff in the morning, operated through the entirety of the school day and turned off each evening. Exhaust fans will pull in air from the outside, which will then be recycled by the HEPA filters.

During the school day, Davey Engineering recommends that one window be cracked open one inch for every eight students, numbers that were carefully

calculated.

“We took some measurements, made a study out of it and came up with the recommendations. We’re able to put it in a scale in terms of so many inches for so many students in the classroom because the high school recently made sure that every roof fan and exhaust fan in the entire building was operational and replaced,” said Joseph Davey. “They all work so when you open a window, you don’t have to rely on Mother Nature or the wind outside to drive the ventilation in. It’s being pulled in from all those numerous exhaust fans that are running. That takes the gas out of it a little bit.”

The range of temperatures expected in the building should not impact the performance of HEPA filters. Unfortunately, Davey Engineering does not account for the elements’ effect on students, said Joseph Davey.

“One of the things we’ve left undressed is comfort. It’s expected that

during this pandemic and during the times when you have a good sized number of students in the room with the windows open, it might get cold. Nobody here is predicting it’s going to maintain 70 degrees. You might have to wear a sweater or bundle up,” he said, joking that “at least the kids will be more alert.”

Board of Health member Richard Bombardier asked Davey Engineering to test HEPA filters inside of the school building, but Joseph Davey insisted that there are more effective means of testing.

“We have a little bit of a difference of opinion on the necessity of this testing,” said Joseph Davey. “The merit or value of testing to make sure that the HEPAs are performing at 99.9%, [specialists who] do those tests. We’ve connected the school board with specialists who do this, and that testing is valuable.”

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

Parking issue plagues Lithia Springs Rd.

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – A local homeowner is protesting a pattern of illegal parking that has been occurring for years near his driveway at 9 Lithia Springs Rd. Dennis Rochon addressed the South Hadley Selectboard on Tuesday evening, citing his longstanding concerns.

Rochon lives near an unofficial entrance to the Lithia Springs Reservoir Trail, a three-mile loop leads from Lithia Springs Rd. to Lithia Springs at the base of the Holyoke Range. Hikers have made a habit of parking in the street outside of Rochon’s home.

“I happen to be the last house on Lithia Springs Rd. Unfortunately for me, I take the brunt of the problem,” said Rochon. “I have to put cones in front of my driveway every day because, otherwise, 50 people would be driving into my driveway to turn around. I just want it on record that the problems are getting worse; not better.”

In 2018, the Selectboard approved the implementation of ‘No Parking’ signs, which were installed outside of Rochon’s residence. Those signs have proven futile, reported Selectboard Vice Chair Sarah Etelman, who has communicated with Rochon on several occasions.

“It’s just an ongoing problem that people are parking on Lithia Springs Rd. where they’re not supposed to be,” said Etelman. “There are no parking signs up and down that the Selectboard approved. People are parking directly underneath signs that say, ‘No Parking.’”

Town Administrator Michael Sullivan has been in contact with South Hadley Police Chief to resolve the issue. The department has issued an array of tickets, none of which appear to be making an impact.

“[Gundersen] has assured him and given [Sullivan] some data, and there actually is ticketing that’s happening. The

vast majority of ticketing that’s happening in town is on Lithia Springs Rd. It doesn’t seem to be discouraging people from parking where they’re not supposed to be parking,” said Etelman.

Selectboard Chair Jeff Cyr asked Rochon if the dilemma has worsened since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, to which Rochon replied, “It absolutely has.”

Rochon also attributing the problem to social media, which has increased the trail’s popularity.

Rochon said he is, for lack of better words, fed up with the illegal parking that occurs regularly outside of his home as well as the behavior he has witnessed from the individuals who park there.

“It’s a terrible situation, honestly,” said Rochon. “There’s public drinking going on, and probably 30% of the cars are out-of-state plates. It’s just absolutely crazy; the amount of attention this place is getting by hikers or what have you. It’s really beyond the threshold it should be at.”

Rochon’s “ultimate goal” involves the creation of a parking lot on Rt. 116 that will offer hikers an alternate entrance to the trail, an idea that he says is supported by the MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation.

Cyr explained the complexity of the situation, as he wished Rochon luck and expressed optimism that the problem will lessen following the conclusion of the pandemic.

“Ultimately, Fire District 2 used to own that property and sold it off to the DCR. Hopefully, you can collaborate with either DCR or District 2 to get a solution,” said Cyr. “From my perspective, I guess the Selectboard authorized the ‘No Parking’ signs, and our Town Administrator has been in touch with the Police Chief to hopefully readdress some of these parking issues.”

CHIEF from page 1

email reads. “Please be advised that if this type of behavior continues, further action will be taken.”

Mitchell was hired as the Granby Fire Chief in 2017. He has since been terminated as of July, but the grievance concerns the town’s decision to suspend Mitchell for 30 days for speeding while driving his town-assigned vehicle.

A demand for arbitration was filed by Mitchell pursuant to his employment contract with the town of Granby. A video hearing via Zoom was conducted in September, according to the decision, in which it was discussed if the town had just cause to suspend Mitchell for 30 days.

Mitchell argued the town did not have just cause to suspend him because he had already been disciplined for the same alleged misconduct via the email sent by Martin. He also argued that the 30-day suspension is “grossly disproportionate” because there had only been two allegations of speeding.

The town had the burden of proving that there was just cause for the suspension, which included proving that Mitchell was guilty of the charges against him and that the disciplinary procedure was fair and afforded Mitchell due process.

Shea wrote she found the town had proven that Mitchell was “guilty of misconduct that warranted discipline,” however, she also found that the town had not proven there was just cause to suspend him because he had already been disciplined once for the same misconduct.

“There is no evidence the town was precluded from issuing either a written reprimand or a 30-day suspension for the

April 30 incident. When the town did exercise its authority to determine and impose a penalty, however, it chose to send a disciplinary email on May 5, 2020,” the decision reads.

According to the town, the May 5 email was not a disciplinary action nor was it a “final” action, Shea wrote. The town contended that the email was a short, general message reminding Mitchell to obey speed limits. It was non-specific and did not mention the April 30 incident, they said.

When Martin later issued the notice of a 30-day suspension, he “did not have new information about the April 30 incident,” the decision states.

“This means that the same proof and the same factual elements used to justify the May 5 disciplinary email were used later to justify the 30-day suspension,” Shea wrote. “As a result, Chief Mitchell was disciplined a second time for the same misconduct, involving the same facts regarding the April 30 trip.”

John Mitchell was terminated as the Fire Chief for the town of Granby at the end of July.

In the Nov. 16 meeting of the Granby selectboard, selectboard member Jay Joyce asked whether the town will be paying for two chiefs’ salaries following the arbitration.

Town Administrator Chris Martin said no.

“The funds were for the 2020 fiscal year and the funds were encumbered by the board to pay for the wages, as approved by the board this evening,” Martin said.

Martin confirmed that the town now has an interim Fire Chief who was appointed Nov. 16—Robert Czerwinski.

South Hadley libraries update

SOUTH HADLEY – The following are updates from the South Hadley Public Libraries.

Upcycled gift toppers and garland
A take and make craft for teens and adults from the Gaylord Memorial Library.

This month the library has a multi-functional garland for you to make.

For December, the library will be making upcycled gift toppers. You can use them as a decorative garland and you can also use them to accent holiday gifts. Each DIY kit will contain:

- instructions
- discarded book and/or magazine pages (your choice!)
- ribbon

To complete each project, you will need tape and a stapler.

Since the library is not yet open again to the public, library staff are asking patrons to sign up for a kit on its calendar <https://www.eventkeeper.com/code/ekform.cfm?curOrg=SHADLEY&curID=476840>) and select the day you’d like to pick it up. The library will be offering pickup windows on Thursdays and Fridays from Dec. 3 to 20 between 12 to 4:45pm.

Library staff will place the kits inside the front door in the vestibule with your first name on them. If you would like a kit, but are not able to come to the library during the pickup window, please contact the library and staff will figure out a way to get it to you.

Get your upcycled book page gratitude garland kit (<https://www.eventkeeper.com/code/ekform.cfm?curOrg=SHADLEY&curID=476840>)

Virtual sit and stitch with Timna Tarr
On Dec. 10 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Log in and spend an evening with your crafty neighbors. Bring your portable handwork of choice - quilting, crocheting, knitting, cross-stitch etc. - and enjoy the company of fellow slow stitchers while you work on your project from the comfort of your own home.

Timna Tarr is a professional quilter and South Hadley resident whose work has been in numerous exhibits, books, and magazines.

Details to connect to this virtual meeting will be sent via email to registered participants. The event is limited to eight people.

Sign up for virtual sit and stitch at <https://www.eventkeeper.com/code/ekform.cfm?curOrg=SHADLEY&curID=465180>)

Crafts for kids
Ms. Janet Makes...

Ms. Janet has been busy creating video projects of crafts you and your children can do at home! Check out her latest projects posted below and visit <https://gaylordlibrary.org/youth-services/miss-janet-makes/> for the full list. Don’t forget to share photos of your finished crafts!

<https://vimeo.com/481796751>
Miss Janet makes...a jellyfish (<https://vimeo.com/481796751>)

Please see **UPDATE**, page 15

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Opposite of west

5. ___ Caesar, comedian

8. Helps little firms

11. A way to censor

13. Expresses atomic and molecular weights

14. Chalcedony

15. Type of sword

16. A corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public

17. Attired

18. A sequence of winding turns

20. Pal

21. Expresses pleasure

22. Amendable

25. Clear

30. A way to cut off

31. Indigenous Thai person

32. Pale brownish yellow color

33. Aquatic plants genus

38. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

41. Merchants

43. Fix a chair

45. Throws into disorganization

48. Famed German composer

49. Keyboard key

50. Oral polio vaccine developer

55. Partner to pain

56. Where golfers start

57. Jenny ___; weight loss program

59. Sailing dinghy

60. Suffix that forms adjectives

61. Speeds at which music is played

62. Body part

63. Fall back

64. Ancient Greek sophist

CLUES DOWN

1. One point south of due east

2. Wings

3. One point south of southeast

4. The shirts on our backs

5. One who works on the seas

6. Select jury

7. Small intestines parts

8. Plant of the heath family

9. Extrasolar planet

10. Creates more of

12. Before

14. Forms over a cut

19. Runs down

23. Exercise regimen ___-bo

24. Unkeyed

25. Principle underlying the universe

26. Corpuscle count (abbr.)

27. Residue

28. Company that rings receipts

29. Rugged mountain range

34. Commercials

35. NY footballer

36. They ___

37. Soviet Socialist Republic

39. Poked holes in the ground

40. Pitchers

41. Your

42. Diana ___, singer

44. Important document for inventors

45. Bangladesh capital

46. Fluid that flows in the veins of Greek gods

47. Famed daguerreotype photographer

48. Where military personnel work

51. Play a role

52. La ___ Tar Pits, Hollywood

53. Unstressed-stressed

54. Type of palm tree

58. Judo garments

Opinion

GUEST COLUMN

Keeping up with Kyle

Raise your hand if you got sick of seeing your School Committee on live television in November. Now keep them raised while I drive around town and apologize to you all personally (masked and socially-distanced, of course).

Fact is, we had a lot of impactful work to do. And appearing on your TVs for nine meetings was necessary. Exhausting and necessary. As a matter of quick contrast, just three years ago, your school committee was steeped in a tradition of meeting just nine times—a year.

Not only was November the month that we began to repopulate our schools with students, but we also completed a year-long superintendent search with the exciting and important hire of Dr. Jahmal Mosley.

Both decisions, and the actions that lead up to them, were a culmination of true team efforts. And I'm not just talking about the team you see on SHCTV15 when you watch the meetings—filled with committee members, Dr. Bonneville, teachers, staff, administration and experts from across our community. Of course, I am also talking about you; it takes a vast community effort to implement these major changes effectively.

With so many adjustments to our personal and professional lives as we navigate the pandemic in our homes and neighborhoods, I want to commend each and every person who participated in the community sessions held with each of our superintendent candidate finalists. These hour-long sessions with stakeholders across our communities provided all of us so many opportunities to ensure that our next superintendent was aware of the needs of our community.

Even if you were unable to participate in these live sessions, I know that many more watched the recorded versions, trading ideas and emails with your neighbors and colleagues about the benefits of each of the candidates. You took such a personal interest in the decision. And you should be commended.

It is this type of engagement and awareness that will allow our schools to emerge from the COVID-era stronger than ever before, ready to take flight in a new and evolving educational landscape. South Hadley will be stronger because you participated.

Additionally, I would be negligent if I didn't offer a few words about the remarkable work done by Dr. Diana Bonneville during the last year. You see, November also marked a full calendar year for her as our superstar Interim Superintendent, a tenure that will continue until July when Dr. Mosley joins our team in an official capacity. As the person who gets to work most closely with Dr. Bonneville, I get to see the remarkable ways that she continues to advocate for each of the students in our town. Her tenure as our chief of schools will always be remembered as one of healing and of the restoration of trust. She has kept us moving forward through previously unimaginable crises, and she has done it all with grace and charisma. I'm so thankful for the ways she has led us all.

Finally, as we flip our calendars to December and lurch towards the end of a year that brought more unpleasant surprises than we could have previously imagined, I offer you an idea: give the gift of service this year—but keep it closer to home than ever before.

While our global outlook is in constant flux, and opportunities to volunteer in-person are trickier to find during the pandemic, take a hard look at your own neighborhood. Now would be a great time to think of your neighbors who might be having difficulties. Can you commit to shoveling their walkways throughout this winter? Can you drop off a hot meal on their doorstep once a week? Can you organize a neighborhood winter-coat exchange?

Whatever you decide, however you help, please know that you are appreciated.

Kyle Belanger is the South Hadley School Committee chair, proud parent of two South Hadley students, and Assistant Professor of Communications at Springfield College. He can be reached at kbelanger@shschools.com.



IN THE GARDEN

They key to successful Christmas arrangements is variety

It's so much fun to arrange flowers! I absolutely love utilizing different colors and textures side by side to create a gorgeous arrangement. The same holds true when making wreaths or mixed planters for the holidays. Even though you are using hues of essentially the same color, green, the excitement is in the texture. From airy white pine to rigid spruce, wispy arborvitae to dense juniper, pointy-leaved holly to minute boxwood, they look great together when thoughtfully arranged. Finish your creation with the addition of pinecones, winterberries and even sumac or budded Pieris as accents, and you will be following in the footsteps of pro designers.

Acquiring lots of greens is easy. Many of the plants I mentioned make their homes in our landscapes or the nearby woods. While it's not recommended to go overboard, I regularly prune this time of year purposely to use the clippings in my decorating. The key to a good cut is not to leave stubs; always snip next to a side branch and space your pruning around the plant, not all in the same spot. And it goes without saying to do your best to ask permission when snipping on someone else's property.

Here is a refresher course from previous columns on how to make some of our favorite Christmastime arrangements:

Making a wreath is easy. Start with a wire coat hanger opened up into a circle. Attach some pliable wire to it. Then, wrap little bunches of greens to the base one after another. Be careful to lay them alongside, not on top of each other. You can make a wreath of just one type of green at a time, or make mixed "bouquets" for your bunches. When you reach the end of the wreath, hide the last bunch under the first and secure the wire. You can easily make a loop for hanging, or use the hook that came with the coat hanger.

If this sounds too difficult, why not make a simple swag? Choose a sturdy green for the base and position it stem pointing up with the pretty side facing you. Grab another type of green a bit smaller than the first and put it on top. Do this again and again with varying greens until you have a nice upside-down "fan." To complete your swag, wrap wire around the stems four or five

inches down from the top, leaving a loop on the back for a hanger. You can cover the wire with a bow, and insert some berries or wired pinecones should you wish.

Homemade cemetery boxes are also simple to make, even for a novice floral arranger. If you don't have plastic window boxes or wooden "logs" in your garage, spare plastic pots are fine substitutes. The key to crafting these is to remember that they are viewed from the front, so start with your tallest, most rigid boughs in the back and work your way forward. My mother always uses plain old garden soil to fill the container and hold the greens in place. Some florists use 'sahara' floral foam- it is a great anchor and is less messy but because it is so light in weight, add some stones to plastic containers to keep them in place.

Mixed winter planters are made the same way. Try to keep the "one and a half" rule from Floral Arranging 101 in mind when determining how tall your planter should be. For proportions to be right, the height of your arrangement should be one and a half times the height of the container. For example, if your planter is a foot tall, your grouping of greens can be 18 inches high. If this planter is viewed all the way around, start in the middle of the container and work out in one direction, then turn it around and do the same on the other side. Use rigid greens such as spruce to get your height. Wispy greens like white pine look great spilling over the edge, gaining width. Because they are dense, juniper and boxwood make great fillers. Holly and Pieris are fancy and perfect for accent. If berries are scarce, you can dress up a planter with red twigs, bows, gilded pods and the like.

Have fun scouring the countryside for a variety of greens this holiday season and even more fun crafting your arrangements!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

A QUOTE

of NOTE

“With COVID, we have to stay far apart, but what I think is really neat is that in a lot of ways it brings us closer together for a common good.”

said Orchards' General Manager Chris Tallman in the story "A heartwarming distribution."

OPINION PAGE/LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

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TOWN Reminder

The Town Reminder is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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COVID from page 1

are encouraged to email Sullivan at msullivan@southhadleyma.gov.

“If we have any left, we will get them a sign, and they can display them on their lawn,” he said.

Sullivan acknowledged that townsfolk are making a commendable effort to follow state-mandated protocols. Numbers continue to rise, however, which Sullivan attributes to the “momentum that the virus has built up recently.”

The town is preparing itself for a possible surge in new cases following the Thanksgiving holiday. Sullivan views the rise as a matter of when and not if; he expects that a trend could be observed as early as next week.

“We’re bracing ourselves for the wave caused by the Thanksgiving holiday and family interactions that happened there. We’re expecting a spike from the holiday, but we haven’t seen that yet,” said Sullivan, noting that the holiday season will be a critical timeframe.

Fortunately, 400,000 COVID-19 vaccines will enter the state of Massachusetts by Dec. 31, where they’ll be distributed to healthcare workers and first responders among other select parties.

“Those are the people that we need to keep healthy so that they can keep us healthy. Strategically, it makes a lot of sense for them to get it first,” said Sullivan, who expects that vaccines will reach the “community level” by May or June.

Questions about the vaccines created for COVID-19 exist, said Sullivan. For instance, he said, it is underdetermined if a vaccinated individual can still carry the virus.

Even with the uncertainties, South Hadley could be in the homestretch of its long, arduous battle against COVID-19. The end of the pandemic may or may not be near, but the virus’ most dangerous stage is certainly here now.

“There’s a light at the end of the tun-



Photo by Dalton Zbierski

Signs such as this one off of the rotary are becoming commonplace across South Hadley.

nel, but let’s not jump off the platform into the middle of the tracks. We have to be patient and wait for that train to come into the station,” said Sullivan. “We’ve invested all this time, being diligent about taking the steps to keep us safe. Really, when you think about, what’s another six months?”

Sullivan encourages residents to “buckle up” and “double down” on their commitment to defeating COVID-19 and preserving lives. One day, future generations will benefit from knowledge gained during the difficult year that has been 2020.

“It won’t be long before we can start thinking about how we innovated. Will some of those practices like wearing masks, social distancing washing our hands stay with us? I think they’re already seeing less influenza infection than was originally expected,” said Sullivan.

He noted that several major corporations such as Monster.com are cutting ties with a percentage of their office space after realizing that effective work can be

completed virtually. Sullivan believes that the pandemic has taught residents how to adapt and become more efficient.

“It’s definitely been a negative year, but there are silver linings,” said Sullivan.

Festival of Wreaths

SOUTH HADLEY – The Morning Star Community Baptist Church of South Hadley, 11 N. Main Street in South Hadley Falls, welcomes the community to join in the Festival of Wreaths on three consecutive Saturdays from 12 to 4 p.m. on Nov. 28, Dec. 5 and Dec. 12.

Uniquely themed, hand crafted wreaths will be displayed through the building, allowing for social distancing while viewing.

In exchange for an entrance fee of \$2, receive raffle tickets to enter to win your favorite wreath. Winners will be announced on Dec. 12.

Outdoor craft activities will be available for children, weather permitting. Funds are being raised to benefit the future opening of BigMa’s Soup Kitchen. Face masks required, social distancing observed.



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World premiere 'for a fallen veteran' by Holyoke resident

SOUTH HADLEY – “For A Fallen Veteran,” a new jazz composition by Mark Gionfriddo, creator of “the Big Broadcast” will have its world premiere performance on Thursday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. at the jazz ensembles of Mount Holyoke College’s “Hot Jazz on A Cold Night” concert on Zoom.

“Hot Jazz for a Cool Night,” is the annual December holiday season concert showcasing the jazz ensembles of Mount Holyoke College. The program, in addition to Gionfriddo’s “For A Fallen Veteran,” include: “The Johnson Rag,” “Silver Bells,” “Rebecca” with singers from the internationally acclaimed Young@Heart Chorus, “Deck The Halls,” “I’ve Got My Love to Keep Me Warm/Happy Holiday,” “Java Jive” and “Winter Wonderland.”

A Holyoke native, Gionfriddo was inspired by the recent deaths of so many veterans at

the Holyoke Soldiers Home
due to COVID-19.

“For A Fallen Veteran” will feature the Mount Holyoke College Chamber Jazz Ensemble, with narration by Brian Lapis, WWLP22News meteorologist, who annually plays emcee “Fred Kelley” in the Big Broadcast. Gionfriddo has also worked with the Berkshire Theatre Group and The Young@Heart Chorus.

"I, like many of my fellow Holyokers, have been greatly saddened by the loss of 76 veterans at the Holyoke Soldiers Home due to COVID-19," said Gionfriddo. "My emotions inspired me to write a piece of music to memorialize their loss and to try to comfort their loved ones in at least some small way- to let them know that we won't forget these veterans."

The performance of "For A Fallen Veteran" can be accessed free on Zoom at <https://mtholyoke.zoom.us/j/96724667668>

UMassFive hosting winter coat drive

HADLEY – UMassFive College Federal Credit Union (UMassFive) is running a winter coat and cold-weather clothing drive in its Hadley and Northampton branches throughout the month of December. These donations are part of an effort to ensure that all community members have access to cold-weather clothing this winter, and will be distributed in partnership with the Amherst Survival Center.

“The public health and economic crises caused by

COVID-19 have hit hard. Not only are many individuals and families struggling, but many of the resources our neighbors can turn to have had to shift their focus,” said Lev Ben-Ezra, Executive Director of the Amherst Survival Center. “Unfortunately, the Amherst Survival Center had to temporarily close our community store due to COVID as we focus on our food and nutrition programs,

Please see **COAT DRIVE**, page 15

ORCHARDS from page 1

Woman's Golf Association, approached Orchards' General Manager Chris Tallman and Food and Bev. Director Mark Avgoustakis about hosting the meal service, both men immediately jumped on board.

Avgoustakis was largely responsible for hundreds of the meals that were distributed last Tuesday. He said he would do it again in a heartbeat, expressing optimism that the initiative will become a yearly occasion.

Following what was a special afternoon, Avgoustakis thanked all who made contributions both in and outside of the kitchen.

"We had a lot of volunteers helping out. It all came together and has gone great, and I'm happy to be involved. I'm extremely grateful for the volunteers because you need everybody's help to put this together. It takes a team effort," said Avgoustakis.

Tallman helped direct traffic at the affair that drew South Hadley Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen and Fire and Ambulance District 2 Chief Todd Calkins. He was excited to be part of such a meaningful event.

“With COVID, we have to stay far apart, but what I think is really neat is that in a lot of ways it brings us closer together for a common good,” said Tallman. “Everyone who has come through today has been so thankful and grateful. You can’t really see the smiles because of the masks, but you can tell they’re smiling and happy to get out and see other people and be able to say, ‘Hello,’ even if it’s only for a minute or two just to come pick up their meal.”

The pandemic has been particularly harsh on the senior population in respects to self-isolation. Jeff Thibault, a volunteer, took pride in uplifting South Hadley seniors by offering them a Thanksgiving meal.



Photos courtesy of Kim Proulx

Orchards' Head Chef Mark Avgoustakis, who oversaw the preparation of approximately 500 turkey dinners for seniors on Nov. 24.

"It's a great feeling to know you're helping out. They really appreciate it. A lot of them said that they won't have to cook now for Thanksgiving. They're looking forward to the dinner," said Thibault.

The Friends of South Hadley Seniors has existed for four decades, coordinating events similar to the one that occurred at the Orchards' on Nov. 24 and raising money for the senior center. Two additional upcoming senior meal distribution initiatives are slated to occur in town.

On Dec. 16, a soup and pop-over meal will be available for pickup at St. Theresa's Church on E. Parkview Dr. A donation of \$2 is recommended.

On Jan. 14, 2021, a soup and sandwich meal will be served for pickup at Fire District 2 on Woodbridge St., and a \$5 donation is recommended.

With the toughness that they embody, Proulx believes that seniors are highly deserving of the attention.

"I think seniors are the ones who demonstrate it the most; they're resilient and come in with a positive attitude," she said. "They're very appreciative, and we're just so thankful that we can support them during this difficult time."

Anyone interested in signing up for a meal can call Friends' Vice President Janet Stawasz at 413-534-5886.

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Freedom Credit Union to match donations, benefits USO

SPRINGFIELD – Throughout the month of December, Freedom Credit Union will partner with its members and the local community to raise funds to benefit the Pioneer Valley USO. Freedom will match total donations made through Dec. 31 up to \$2,500.

The mission of the USO (United Service Organizations) is to strengthen America’s military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country throughout their service to our country. The Pioneer Valley USO, located at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee:

- Provides more than 102,000 lbs. of food to over 3,200 individuals annually through the Emergency Food Pantry
- Supports more than 600 families with holiday food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas annually
- Sends more than 500 care packages to deployed military men and women around the world
- Is funded entirely by private donations, sponsorships and grants
- Supports both Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee and Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield.

Donations can be made to Freedom’s matching drive online at bit.ly/393W-Czo.

“We wanted to do something to help care for those who sacrifice so much for our freedom,” said President Glenn Welch. “The Pioneer Valley USO was set up in the 1940s to help local service families in need by serving meals and providing food through a pantry at Westover Air Reserve Base. With all the challenges this year, the organization has experienced a dip in donations, and we’d like to help fix this.”

“During this holiday season, there are about 220,000 American men and women on active duty in 100 countries who will not be home for the holidays,” said Allan Tracy, executive director, Pioneer Valley USO. “We appreciate Freedom’s generosity in soliciting and matching donations to help relieve some of our service members’ stress by helping to ensure their families are cared for.”

For information about the full range of services offered by Freedom Credit Union, visit freedom.coop.

Get festive at the Granby Library

GRANBY – Take and make kits available in the library lobby from Dec. 8 to 22.

With a little glue added to the kits and you’ll have some homemade holiday ornaments to add a special touch to your tree or a great gift for someone special.

Your child’s choice of one bagged kit supplies the options of a candy cane mouse, cinnamon stick reindeer or jeweled ornaments.

Stop by the lobby during open library hours while supplies last.

Call 413-467-3320 if you’d like books for curbside pick-up. Library staff can choose a few good holiday books based on your child’s age.

In the Classroom



Courtesy photo
Earlier in Nov., E Ink donated 10 eNotes and \$15,000 to South Hadley Public Schools.

E Ink donates \$15,000 to schools

SOUTH HADLEY – E Ink, a local business, donated \$15,000 South Hadley Public Schools to support the school amidst a challenging learning environment.

They also donated 10 Sony Digital Paper devices, which utilize E Ink’s digital paper technology, to school administrators for use as academic tools for students and teachers.

Interim Superintendent Diana Bonneville said the donation will be used to “offset the cost of teacher laptops to assist in remote teaching.”

The company’s US headquarters are in Billerica, and they have a manufacturing facility based in South Hadley. So far, they’ve also made a similar donation to Shawsheen Valley Technical School in Billerica and plan to donate to a third school nearby to their Fremont, CA location.



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► Granby

Rare condition changes life of resident

Local woman seeks support

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff Writer

GRANBY – Granby resident Kathy Charland is seeking support from the greater community after recently being diagnosed with rare conditions, which now requires her to lay horizontally for 23 hours a day.

Charland has Spontaneous Intracranial Hypotension and Dysautonomia – meaning spinal fluid leaks out of her spinal cord and her nervous system is unable to regulate essential body functions properly.

With symptoms beginning in 2018, Charland said in March of 2020, her condition got worse to the point where she must spend most of the day horizontally.

“It’s most effective (to be horizontal) in terms of the spinal leak,” she said.

In response to her situation, a group of Charland’s friends, loved ones and volunteers have created “Supporting Kathy’s Journey,” on social media, a website and Gofundme to help raise funds to help her.

To allow for greater accessibility, Charland has a power chair and a heavy one at that.

“It’s 350 lbs., it doesn’t transport well,” she said. “So, one of the things the team is fundraising for is a vehicle that can transport me outside of my home.”

There are a number of ways the accessible vehicle will be helpful to Charland – from being able to get herself into the vehicle, to the ability to use her wheelchair as a seat in a vehicle and more.

To go out of her home, Char-



Kathy Charland and her mother, Beatty Balthazard have been working along with the “Supporting Kathy’s Journey” team to raise funds for a wheel-chair accessible vehicle for Kathy.

land needs to use a manual wheelchair rather than her power chair due to the weight, which limits her independence.

“The power chair is useful because I can rotate or stop or position myself where I need to be. I don’t need someone to push me like in a manual wheelchair,” Charland said. “From an independence and freedom standpoint, (the power chair) is easier and more helpful.”

Charland said she is “a people person” and enjoys talking to everyone and learning everyone’s name.

“It’s a little harder with COVID-19 and people don’t know how to react,” Charland said.

The goal of the team is to raise \$35,000 for the vehicle as well as more for other expenses.

“It probably goes without saying that in medical situations like these, my needs are not covered by insurance,” Charland said. “This will cover my every-

day expenses and help ease the burden.”

In addition to the fundraiser, people can also take part in “Paper K,” a paper cut out of Charland which can be taken on “adventures.”

“You can take it and print it out, then bring ‘me’ to different places,” Charland said. “I’m not able to do many of the things I’d like to be able to do, so I get a kick out of it. People have put the figure in the sand on the beach or making s’mores. Then they’re asked to send a picture of whatever ‘I’m’ doing, so I can see it.”

She said people have to an option to donate, but don’t have to pay to participate in the “Paper K.”

“It’s good for two reasons – A. it’s fun for me and B. it helps people learn about the cause,” Charland added.

She said good has come out of her situation and hopes more will follow.



Paper K is a project to bring a paper version of Kathy Charland to various places and send pictures of the cutout for Charland.

She said if her health improves enough, she will be able to help kids with physical disabilities to become involved in sports and other activities, something she had a vested interest in prior to her own disability.

“There is good and will continue to be good to come from this,” she said. “As we enter the season of giving, I want to add that I am grateful to people who willing to give even when they don’t know me.”

To donate on Gofundme, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/supportingkathysjourney> or visit the “Supporting Kathy’s Journey” website at <https://supportingkathysjourney.weebly.com/>.

NAMI support group changes


REGION – The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-WM) of Western Massachusetts would like to inform the public that our NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group schedule has changed again due to COVID-19.

- Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
access online with zoom: <https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/955331152>
access by phone: 1-646-558-8656 (meeting ID: 955 331 152)
- Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
access online with zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/859002245>
access by phone: 1-929-205-6099 (meeting ID: 859 002 245)
 - @home Connection Support Group
- First and third Thursday of the month from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
access online with zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84883272163>
more information about NAMI Mass @home: <https://namimass.org/nami-mass-home/>
- Fridays at 10:30 a.m.
access online with zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/621974217>
access by phone: 1-929-205-6099 (meeting ID: 621 974 217)

A diagnosis is not required to attend any group. Anyone with mental health condition is welcome to attend any group without prior registration.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts is dedicated to helping improve the quality of life for individuals and families affected by mental illness through support, education and advocacy.

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Wrestling to be played in spring season

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – First it was outdoor “indoor” track, now could wrestling be moving outdoors?

Rather than cancel the high school wrestling season, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association has voted to move wrestling to the spring season.

A “bubble” was placed between the winter and spring seasons to account for sports that were either shut down, or in the case of football and cheerleading, sports that were deemed high-risk to play during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

While there is optimism some restrictions will lift as the vaccine rolls out in the next few months, the MIAA is operating as through the pandemic conditions exist until they are otherwise guided by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The EEA has been issuing the guidance high schools have been operating with. The guidance has included modified rules and protocols utilized to help keep students healthy while also remaining on the athletic fields.

The EEA has advised against wrestling during the winter season due to the sport having “sustained close contact” between competitors.

With football already set to be played during the “bubble” season, the decision was made to try and have wrestling during the spring season.

With school gymnasiums being utilized for boys volleyball during the spring as well as the temperatures rising, the idea of hosting wrestling meets outdoors has been broached. It is unclear how that would look and what conditions spring athletes will compete under, but it would definitely be a first to hold wrestling meets outdoors. Meets typically take place in the center of a gymnasium on hard mats.

While it will more than likely be played during the bubble season, indoor track is also being talked about to be played outdoors due to the improving weather between February and April.

It is otherwise unclear how a change in seasons will affect already shrinking wrestling programs in the region.

Please see **WRESTLING** page 12



Tigers fall in finale

SOUTH HADLEY – In the final regular season game held at South Hadley High School, field hockey was defeated 1-0 by Belchertown. It was the second time in five days the two teams had matched up against one another.

Ashley Scott circles around and takes possession of the ball.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



April Hunter tries to steal the ball away.



Ryley MonGrief winds up for a long hit.

HoopHall event cancelled

SPRINGFIELD — The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today the cancellation of the 2021 Spalding HoopHall Classic presented by Eastbay. The annual basketball showcase entering its 20th year at Springfield College, the birthplace of basketball, is typically played during MLK Weekend.

“We’re obviously extremely disappointed to cancel HoopHall Classic, a premiere event in the high school basketball calendar,” said Greg Procino, Vice President of Basketball Operations for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. “The event has seen tremendous talent and success over the past two decades, with a number of sellout crowds, but ultimately the safety of our fans, student athletes and staff is of the utmost importance. We thank Springfield and our marketing partners for their support over the years and look forward to returning to Blake Arena when it’s safe to do so.”

The Basketball Hall of Fame plans to relaunch the elite high school event in 2022. For the latest updates as they become available, follow @hoophallclassic on Instagram and Twitter.

The HoopHall event has featured many games featuring area high school teams, including South Hadley, Holyoke, Minnechaug, Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, South Hadley, Agawam, and Granby during its history.

MIAA issues statement regarding status of winter sports

FRANKLIN – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) COVID-19 Task Force representatives today presented winter sport modifications and recommendations for the 2020-2021 season to the MIAA Board of Directors.

This presentation culminated a two-week MIAA governance process which included sport-specific sub-committee meetings where updated Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and current Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary (DESE) guidelines were reviewed. These subcommittees created sport-specific modifications and presented them to the full committees for approval. The MIAA Sports Medicine Committee (SMC) and ultimately the MIAA Covid-19 Task force subsequently approved the modifications.

MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine stated, “The MIAA’s mission can be defined by a dual prescription: promoting maximum participation opportunities for the maximum number of student-athletes so that life lessons can be learned. At the same time, promoting the health and safety of all participants is the Association’s imperative.”

The MIAA Board of Directors voted to approve sport-specific modifications for the Winter Season. These modifications will continue to be reviewed as they relate to current regulations surrounding COVID-19 and may be modified if necessary. Additional modifications or the decision to participate in MIAA-recognized winter sports will be determined by local school districts and/or their local Board of Health. You may view the Task Force presentation on the MIAA website.

Highlights include:

The Winter Season will have a new start date of December 14, 2020.

Modifications for the sports of Wrestling, Indoor Track,

winter Cheerleading and Dance were not created or presented due to committee recommendation for those sports to be moved to a different sport season. Indoor Track is moved to the Fall II Season and Wrestling, winter Cheerleading and Dance are moved to the Spring Season.

MIAA President and Marshfield Superintendent Jeff Granatino said, “It is great to see that so many of our student-athletes will be able to take part in the sports they love this winter. Many coaches, athletic directors, principals and superintendents worked hard over the past few

Please see **MIAA**, page 12



Pioneers look for roster hopefuls

Though the tryouts had to be more staggered with plenty of social distance, the Western Mass. Pioneers organization held tryouts prior to the Thanksgiving holiday for its many academy youth teams. Tryouts were held for numerous age groups for both boys and girls at Lusitano Field. The Pioneers are hopeful to have a normal regular season starting in the spring.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

Senior photos from fall season wanted

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is nearing its end and Turley Publications has been all over the action. But with this unpredictable season there have been temporary or in some cases, permanent stoppages in play, and we still want to help feature your athletes, especially those who are seniors this year. We continue to ask for help on this season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages

with names and color. We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in. If you attended any senior games and would like to see those photos in our papers, we welcome submitted photos from those events and information about graduating seniors who participated in Fall I sports. We also welcome any additional information about other major achievements. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

T-Birds make big food donation

SPRINGFIELD – On Tuesday, Nov. 24, Springfield Thunderbirds’ mascot Boomer along with members of the Springfield Thunderbirds front office and MassMutual staff made a large donation of non-perishable food items to Friends of the Homeless in Springfield. The donation, a sizable amount of food spanning multiple pallets, is the culmination of a successful “Thanks for Giving” program the Thunderbirds’ Foundation hosted for the month of November, with support from MassMutual. Supporters of the Thunderbirds were encouraged to visit the office or Hilton Garden Inn in Springfield to donate food, with the Nicebox Icebox parked outside the Thunderbirds’ office every Wednesday to receive donations.

“It was tremendous to see the generosity of so many individuals the past few weeks,” said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. “Our sincerest thanks go out to all that supported the drive, including MassMutual. These past few months have been challenging, but we’re happy that we can continue to make an impact on our community through Foundation-related programs.” Friends of the Homeless is a program operated by Clinical & Support Options (CSO) that provides shelter to more than 1,000 individual men and women each year and also assigns a case worker to each guest to help them find work, permanent homes, navigate assistance programs, and access behavioral and mental health support.

Tuesday’s delivery continued a consistent track record of community involvement from the T-Birds Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity established by the franchise to benefit causes in Springfield and surrounding Pioneer Valley communities. Over the summer, the T-Birds Foundation made a number of food deliveries to front line workers as part of the “From the Heart” campaign. During the month of October, the T-Birds Foundation made a donation of \$15,000 to the Rays of Hope, supporting breast cancer research and awareness.

The mission of the T-Birds Foundation is to serve the Springfield community and the Pioneer Valley beyond every win and loss through a focus on providing and supporting initiatives in the areas of health and wellness, youth enrichment, and civil service. Donations can be made to the T-Birds Foundation at any time by visiting <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/3391100>.

MIAA from page 11

weeks to ensure that we would be able to offer interscholastic athletes for our students, and I want to thank them for their efforts.” Granatino added, “The pandemic has reshaped the way education is delivered across the country and the same can be said about its impact on athletics. Nonetheless, I am confident our student-athletes and coaches will adjust to the new expectations this winter and have an experience as fulfilling and as exciting as what we saw during the fall season. Gaine reinforced, “Our membership should be proud that our Board’s actions today reflect allegiance to the MIAA mission.”

The approved Winter Season sport modifications are located on the MIAA COVID-19 Task Force Page. The Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document located on the Task Force page is currently being updated to better reflect and provide clarity with recent decisions. This will be posted as soon as possible.

WRESTLING from page 11

Many teams are having more and more trouble fielding full teams of at least 14 wrestlers, of which each one can fit into every weight class. With wrestling being competed in the spring, some schools could lose competitors to their regular spring sports, including lacrosse, baseball, tennis, and track. There also could

be a lack of tournaments for individual wrestlers to compete in depending on how the region reacts to the sports movement to the spring. There will be no winter tournaments for basketball and hockey. It is unknown whether spring sports will have tournaments played. Wrestlers are allowed to have practices during the winter season.

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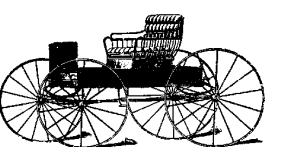
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In accordance with MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 9, the Granby Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing using GoToMeeting on **December 21 at 5:05 PM.** The nature of the hearing is to consider the petition of Properties Plus, LLC, Applicant and Owner, seeking a Site Plan Approval under 5.13, Business Estate Lots, of the Granby Zoning Bylaws for a metal building that will be used for storage of business and company property on Lot 1 at 121 West State Street, Granby, MA.

Members of the public can attend virtually by visiting <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/271907781> or

by phone at +1 (408) 650-3123 using access code 271-907-781.

The complete applications and plans are available for public inspection during regular business hours by appointment at the Selectmen's Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street, Granby, MA 01033. Additionally, copies of the plan and application may be inspected on the Planning Board's web page at <https://www.granby-ma.gov/planning-board/events/23196>.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

James Trompke, Chair
Granby Planning Board
12/04, 12/11/2020

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by **Hampshire Towing, 650 New Ludlow Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that a **SEALED BID** auction with bids due **Monday, December 21, 2020 at 9 a.m.** Vehicles can be viewed by appointment only December 16 and December 17, 2020 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call 413-534-5373 for appointments.

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West Hampton, MA 01027
- 1998 Honda Civic**
2HGEJ6670WH509859
Bryan Velez- Morales
117 Bloomfield Street
Springfield, MA 01108
- 2006 Suzuki DR-Z 400sm**
JS1SK44A462102003
Angel Rivera
584 Chicopee St
Chicopee, MA 01013
- 2007 Ford Edge**
2FMDK46C57BB49772
Adam McNair
237 Stapleton Road

Springfield, MA 01109

Quad Ku1500
LAGAKUFR741000979 No Records Found
No Records Found
No Records Found

2007 Nissan Sentra
3N1AB61EX7L676774
Johnathan Cartagena
24 Ringgold Street
Springfield, MA 01107

2001 Subaru Outback
4S3BH675517630255
Lydia Lozada
416 Canon Circle
Springfield, Ma 01118

12/04, 12/11, 12/18/2020

anchors to support reconducted poles # 39 and #40

Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

The petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

Copies of proposed Pleasant Street- Granby MA Granby Massachusetts are available in the Board of Selectmen's Office 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. – 12 noon on Friday located at 10-B West State Street, Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor.

****This meeting may have to be held in a remote session.** Please go to <https://www.granby-ma.gov/select-board-48> hours before the meeting to check on the status of the meeting in case you need a phone # and password to join this hearing/meeting.

Granby Selectboard
Glen N. Sexton
Jay Joyce
Jennifer Silva

12/04/2020

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FOR RENT



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QUABBIN & SUBURBAN

FRIDAY AT NOON

HILLTOWNS

MONDAY AT NOON

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

South Hadley Council on Aging Dec. update

SOUTH HADLEY – The staff at the Council on Aging It is the holiday season and although everyone must remain vigilant against catching and spreading COVID–19, by wearing masks in all public places and maintaining six-feet of physically distancing, people can still embrace the holidays safely.

In that spirit the COA staff, with the support of the friends of the South Hadley Seniors and the community, invite you to be a part of the festivities the COA planned during December.

First, don’t miss out on the friends holiday soup and popover meal on Dec. 16. Once you have your meal in hand, head back home, turn on S.H. Channel 15 and listen to Jimmy Mazz at 3 p.m. If you miss it, don’t worry, the show will air throughout December.

On select dates in December, Channel 15 will air a program titled “COA Holiday Greetings.” Join the fun and watch as the staff and reminisce about holiday traditions and then end the program with a song!

The stay home stay safe bag program will continue in December and the bags will include a few more surprise “gifts.” In addition to these events, the Council on Aging have a festive concert by the Berkshire Hills Music Academy, a new workshop on EFT tapping and nighttime Nidra relaxation program. Lastly, if you’re

experiencing financial difficulty this season, please contact us; we have several scholarship programs that you may be eligible to apply for.

Nighttime newsbreak Nidra/deep relaxation

Via Zoom or phone the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. with Kerry Ouimette

De-stress and relax with COA Program Coordinator and certified and registered yoga instructor, Ouimette. Yoga Nidra is done reclined. You can even set up in your bed. This guided relaxation can give you a feeling of restoration and can aid with sleep issues. Register by Dec. 8. For Zoom, email: kouimette@south-hadleyma.gov

Participation needed for workshop to air on Channel 15 in January

The workshop is via Zoom or phone-in on Friday, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. on myths, mysteries and spying in the former U.S.S.R.

Henry Quinlan lived in Moscow for five years and he was involved with the USSR for 30 years. The topics in the workshop include spying on Russia for the FBI, the Russian Mafia, the USSR’s involvement in WWII in addition to taking you on a tour of historical and cultural landmarks. Henry loves to answer your questions at the end of the presentation.

If you are camera shy, do not worry.

Quinlan will appear for the en-

tire presentation and you will only be shown for a minute when you ask your question.

Register by Dec. 10. Phone ins call 413-538-5042 or Zoom email kouimette@southhadleyma.gov.

FT Tapping

A Zoom workshop with Val Miller on Thurs., Dec. 17 at 1 p.m.

Using emotional freedom tapping points, you can find calm, better sleep, confidence, clarity and focus. Register by Dec. 16 by emailing Program Coordinator, Ouimette at kouimette@southhadleyma.gov

Book club is back!

Zoom/Phone-in fourth Wednesday of month at 2 p.m. on Dec. 23

This month’s book will be “Skipping Christmas” by John Grisham.

Library lobby and contactless pick-up available.

The COA is partnering with the South Hadley Public Library to select and provide accessible books that lend themselves to great book club discussions. The library will provide large print, audio, and e-books, in addition to regular copies of our book selection each month along with book discussion questions: curbside and lobby pickups available.

Ouimette will facilitate the club; however, Council on Aging staff are looking for a member to facilitate. Call 413-538-5042 or contact Ouimette at @Kouimette@southhadley-MA.gov by Tues. Dec. 22.

COAT DRIVE from page 8

but we have remained committed to distributing core essentials-- items like coats, sleeping bags, underwear, socks and long johns. We are so grateful to be partnering with a number of area organizations including Craig’s Doors and Family Outreach of Amherst to make sure every single coat, blanket, and winter accessory we collect makes it someone who needs it. Now is truly a time of ‘every bit counts,’ and we are grateful for all the ways the community is stepping up to support each other. The

UMassFive coat drive is an essential part of that.”

UMassFive gratefully accepts any and all clean, new or gently used coats, gloves, scarves, hats, sweaters, and blankets.

Donations should be placed in a bag, and may be dropped off during business hours to the Hadley branch at 200 Westgate Center Drive or Northampton branch at 225 King Street.

<https://www.umassfive.coop/news/umassfive-hosting-winter-coat-drive-1>

UPDATE from page 5

<https://vimeo.com/476326783>
Miss Janet makes...a salamander or lizard (<https://vimeo.com/476326783>)

<https://vimeo.com/481758015>
Miss Janet makes...a turkey place holder (<https://vimeo.com/481758015>)

<https://vimeo.com/479009696>
Miss Janet makes...a decoupage container (<https://vimeo.com/479009696>)

View all Miss Janet makes craft videos (<https://gaylordlibrary.org/youth-services/miss-janet-makes/>)

New books by BIPOC authors and voices

Thanks to a donation from South Hadley Coalition for Anti-Racism and Equity (SH CARE), the library recently ordered 70 new books by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) authors - 45 for adults and 25 for youth.

These titles include a mix of fiction, poetry and nonfiction representing classic and contemporary voices that will enhance the inclusiveness and diversity of the library collection.

SH CARE is a grassroots organization working to build a collective movement to systematically address and undo racism in town.

Check them out! Although the building remains closed, you can still borrow these new titles. To do so, log on to C/W Mars (<https://gaylord.cwmars.org/eg/opac/home>), search

for the item you’d like to borrow and place a hold on your account. Be sure to select South Hadley Public Library as your pickup location or sign up for homebound delivery from the Gaylord Memorial Library.

If you need help, call at 413-538-5047. Library staff are available by phone Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., but you can call anytime to leave a message.

To see the newest titles being added to the South Hadley Public Library system, check the library out on Wowlibrary at http://wowlibrary.org/nu.aspx?fb&p=6649-507&fbclid=IwAR1EQ85_wq6y2NAPanvKBr7-qTxgRQT9ye_11bO-JaUZcSZX-V4zcXBN9vPw.

Homebound delivery

Homebound delivery is available to South Hadley residents who have health or transportation issues that keep them from the library. Staff at Gaylord is thrilled to be able to deliver books, movies, CDs, etc. to the community members who are not able to visit the South Hadley Public Library to pick up holds. If you, or someone you know would like to learn more and sign up for Homebound Delivery, please visit <https://gaylordlibrary.org/homebound-delivery/>.

Homebound Delivery FAQ (<https://gaylordlibrary.org/homebound-delivery/>)

Lobby pickup now available at SHPL

The South Hadley Public Library lobby is currently open to the public Monday through Wednesday from

9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday to Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Library patrons must wear a mask when entering the library.

Visit <http://www.shadleylib.org/> to learn more.

Learn how to pick up your holds (<http://www.shadleylib.org/>)

Online events happening at libraries throughout MA <https://libraries.state.ma.us/calendar>

One amazing thing that has emerged as a result of the pandemic is the expansion of free virtual programming being created by libraries throughout Massachusetts. The best part is, you can attend any of them from the comfort of your own home! To learn more, check out the Massachusetts libraries online events calendar (<https://libraries.state.ma.us/calendar>).

Visit the MA libraries online events calendar <https://www.facebook.com/gaylordlibrary/>

Follow Gaylord Memorial Library on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/gaylordlibrary/>) <https://instagram.com/gaylordmemoriallibrary>

Follow Gaylord Memorial Library on Instagram (<https://instagram.com/gaylordmemoriallibrary>)

Looking for an easy way to support Gaylord?

Attend an event, check out a book and be an active library user!

For more information, please contact the library at 413-538-5047.



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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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PHONE _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED:

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(Subject: Santa) for immediate assistance.

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Xfinity Mobile

and save even more

\$200

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with new line activation and transfer of phone number within 90 days of Internet purchase

The Xfinity Black Friday Sales Event ends December 7.
Go to **xfinity.com**, call **1-800-XFINITY**, or visit an **Xfinity Store** today.



Internet offer requires enrollment in both automatic payments and paperless billing. Must enroll within 30 days of placing order for advertised offer. Without enrollment, service charge automatically increases by \$10/mo. 12-month automatic payment and paperless billing discount appears on bill within 30 days of enrolling. If either automatic payments or paperless billing are canceled during the 12-month period, or if service is downgraded to Limited Basic only, the \$10/mo. discount will be discontinued. Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas. Limited to new residential Performance 100 Mbps Internet customers only. Equipment, installation, taxes and fees, and subject to change during and after promo. After promo, regular rates apply. Comcast's service charge for Performance Internet is \$77.95/mo. (subj. to change). Service limited to a single outlet. May not be combined with other offers. **Internet:** Actual speeds vary and are not guaranteed. For factors affecting speed, visit www.xfinity.com/networkmanagement. **Mobile:** Xfinity Mobile requires residential post-pay Xfinity Internet. Line limitations may vary. For Xfinity Mobile Broadband Disclosures, visit www.xfinity.com/mobile/policies/broadband-disclosures. Xfinity Mobile utilizes the highest ranked network from RootMetrics® 1H 2020 US report. WiFi networks not tested. Results may vary. Award is not endorsement. Individual programs and marks are property of their respective owners. Prepaid card offer: Must remain an Xfinity Mobile customer and maintain the Xfinity Internet service required for the offer for 90 days with account in good standing. Prepaid Card mailed to Comcast account holder within 18 weeks of activation of all required services and expires in 180 days. The Xfinity Mobile logo and "o" marks are trademark of Comcast. Call for restrictions and complete details. © 2020 Comcast. All rights reserved. NPA233814-0005 NED-WNE-BF-WMass-V2